

Message Text

PAGE 01 LIMA 06845 272237Z

64

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: LABMIN SEEKS POSSIBLE USG ASSISTANCE TO LABOR BUT
REJECTS AIFLD APPROACH

SUMMARY. LABMIN GALINDO IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN AND LABATT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN USG AID TO THE LABOR SECTOR IN PERU. GALINDO, HOWEVER, REJECTED THE AIFLD APPROACH AND CLAIMED THAT AIFLD HAD BEEN TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH APRA. HE STATED THAT ANY AID TO PERUVIAN TRADE UNIONS MUST BE OPEN TO ALL. HE PROPOSED THAT THE USG HELP SUPPORT A GOP-RUN LABOR EDUCATION INSTITUTE. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR AND LABOR ATTACHE DISCUSSED GOP LABOR POLICY AND QUESTION OF USG ASSISTANCE TO THE LABOR SECTOR WITH LABMIN LUIS GALINDO CHAPMAN DURING JULY 15 LUNCHEON AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE. WE MENTIONED CLOSE USG/GOP COOPERATION IN THE LABOR AREAS IN PAST YEARS. GALINDO REMARKED THAT THE GOP WELCOMED AND SOUGHT SUPPORT AND AID FROM THE USG.

2. HOWEVER, LABMIN THEN NOTED THAT US LABOR PROGRAMS IN THE PAST HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT WITH ITS PROGRAM OF DIRECT EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO SOME TRADE UNIONS. THE AIFLD, GALINDO SAID, WAS TOTALLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE APRA AND FOR THAT REASON THE JOINT PERU/USG AGREEMENT WAS CANCELLED. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE
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PAGE 02 LIMA 06845 272237Z

AIFLD PROGRAM WAS OPEN TO MANY INDEPENDENT UNIONS BEYOND THE APRA-ORIENTED CTP.

3. WHEN ASKED IF AIFLD COULD OPERATE TODAY IN PERU AS IT DOES IN

NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, IF ITS PROGRAMS WERE POSSIBLY EXPANDED TO INCLUDE MOST NON-COMMUNIST LABOR FEDERATIONS INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN CTRP, GALINDO ANSWERED NEGATIVELY. HE STATED THAT INTERNATIONAL LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS OPERATING IN PERU TODAY WOULD HAVE TO BE OPEN TO ALL LABOR CONFEDERATIONS, INCLUDING ON PRINCIPLE THE COMMUNIST CGTP. GALINDO CLAIMED THAT THE AIFLD REMAINS IDENTIFIED WITH APRA, AND GOP APPROVAL OF AN AIFLD PROGRAM WOULD BE APOLITICAL LIABILITY. HE, THEREFORE, DECLARED THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE TO A RETURN OF AIFLD.

4. TURNING TO ON-GOING PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ASSISTANCE IN PERU, GALINDO MENTIONED POSSIBLE SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN UNIONS AND AN ICFTU RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS AFFILIATES. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD GALINDO THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS, WHICH ASSIST NATIONAL AFFILIATES, RECEIVE SOME AID FUNDS ON A REGIONAL LEVEL. IF THE LABOR MINISTRY HAD QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT REGIONAL ASSISTANCE, THE EMBASSY WOULD SEEK TO ANSWER THEM. EMBASSY LABATT EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS TRADE UNIONS WHICH DIRECT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT (ITS) PROGRAMS EVEN WHERE USG GRANTS ARE INVOLVED.

5. GALINDO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AN EXPANDED LABOR SECTOR VISITOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH THE US. HE HOPED THE EMBASSY COULD WORK TO MODIFY THE CURRENT EXCHANGE WHICH APPEARS "OPEN TO APRISTAS ONLY" TO INCLUDE LABOR LEADERS FROM THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CNT, WHICH GALINDO CALLED A POSITIVE CHRISTIAN-SOCIALIST FORCE MERELY LINKED TO THE COMMUNIST CGTP FOR TACTICAL REASONS. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, SAID GALINDO, WAS A LABOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH WOULD INCLUDE LEADERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT-ORGANIZED CTRP UNION.

6. GALINDO FOCUSED HIS COMMENTS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF USG SUPPORT FOR A GOP-RUN LABOR INSTITUTE. THIS, ACCORDING TO GALINDO, WOULD AVOID THE PROBLEM OF AIFLD IDENTIFICATION WITH APRA AS WELL AS USG RELUCTANCE TO WORK WITH COMMUNIST UNIONS. GALINDO SAID THAT STUDENTS WOULD BE CAREFULLY SELECTED FROM IMPORTANT UNIONS WHATEVER THEIR NATIONAL AFFILIATION, BUT THEY WOULD BE TRAINED TO BECOME "APOLITICAL" LABOR LEADERS WHO COULD CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 06845 272237Z

EVENTUALLY UNDERMINE THE COMMUNIST UNIONS. US FINANCING FOR THIS INSTITUTE MIGHT COME FROM AID, A FOUNDATION, OR POSSIBLY A UNIVERSITY GROUP, OPINED GALINDO. THE AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT THIS IDEA WAS INTERESTING.

7. COMMENT. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A GOP LABOR INSTITUTE WOULD SUCCEED IN TURNING OUT "APOLITICAL" (READ PRO-GOVERNMENT) AND COMPETENT LABOR LEADERS, THEREBY ERODING COMMUNIST LABOR STRENGTH, WHEN PAST PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AGENCY (SINAMOS) FAILED IN THE TASK OF POLITICAL FORMATION OF NEW REVOLUTIONARY CADRES. THE GOP-FINANCED AND SINAMOS-ADVISED CTRP REMAINS UNABLE TO SUSTAIN ITSELF. YET THE INSTITUTE IDEA IS THE LEAST WORTHY OF A CLOSER LOOK.

8. EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT TO PLEASE INFORM AIFLD
OF LABMIN REFUSAL TO CONSIDER A RENEWAL OF AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM
FOR PERU. CONCERNING THE LABOR INSTITUTE AND OTHER POSSIBLE
USG SUPPORT FOR THE LABOR SECTOR IN PERU, THE AMBASSADOR HOPES
TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN WASHINGTON DURING HOME LEAVE AND LABATT
CREGAN PLANS TO COMPARE NOTES WITH COLLEAGUES AT THE UPCOMING
SAN JOSE LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE.
DEAN

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